

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Water Pollution Control Division
Notice of Public Comment Period for the 2019 Assessment
of Laughery Creek Watershed Water Quality Data for the
Development of a Total Maximum Daily Load Report Under Section 303(d)
of the Clean Water Act and Pursuant to [IC 13-18-2-3](#)
Document #20-74

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

Pursuant to [IC 13-18-2-3](#), the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is soliciting public comment on the assessment of water quality data for the development of a total maximum daily load (TMDL) report. These data were collected by IDEM staff from November of 2018 through October of 2019, following the IDEM quality assured work plan and IDEM standard operating procedures. They were assessed using IDEM's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM).

Background

Chemical, physical, and biological samples of the Laughery Creek Watershed were collected in 1985, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2011, and 2017 using the fish tissue, probabilistic, and targeted monitoring programs. Additionally, fixed station monitoring has been conducted in the watershed since 1998. Based on these monitoring programs, impairments listed on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters include *E. coli*, dissolved oxygen (DO), and impaired biotic communities (IBC).

In 2018, the Laughery Creek Watershed was selected for an intensive watershed characterization monitoring project to identify the sources and extent of impairments based on those waters that were previously listed. Twenty-four sites were assessed for general chemistry, pathogens, nutrients, habitat, and fish and macroinvertebrate communities.

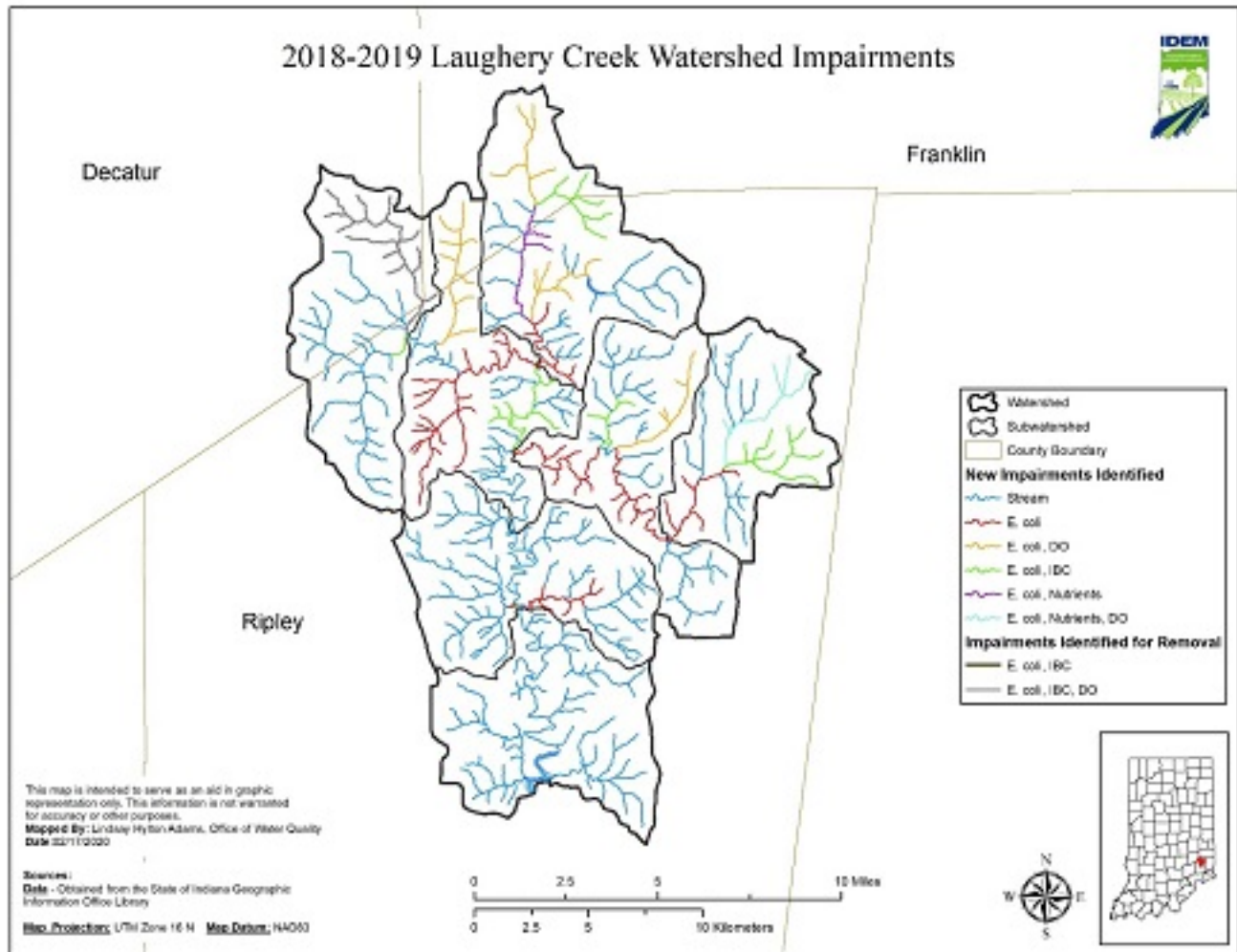
Findings

Based on the watershed characterization study assessments in 2020, there are 19 stream segments, tracked using assessment unit IDs (AUIDs), where additional impairments are identified. The additional impairments across all stream segments sampled within the Laughery Creek watershed total 31, including 19 *E. coli*, 5 IBC, 5 DO, and 2 nutrients.

Also as a result of the assessments, a total of five historical impairments (including two IBC, two *E. coli*, and one dissolved oxygen impairment), are identified as no longer applicable. Those segments now demonstrate attainment of applicable water quality standards.

Laughery Creek Watershed Impairments		
Current AUID	Additional Impairments Identified in 2018-2019 Data Assessment	Impairments Identified for Removal in 2018-2019 Data Assessment Due to Meeting WQS
INV0351_05	IBC, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0351_T1003		IBC, DO, <i>E. coli</i>
INV0352_01	DO, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0352_02	Nutrients, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0352_03	<i>E. coli</i>	
INV0352_T1001	IBC, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0352_T1008	DO, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0353_01	Nutrients, DO, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0353_02	<i>E. coli</i>	
INV0353_T1003	IBC, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0354_03	<i>E. coli</i>	
INV0354_04	<i>E. coli</i>	
INV0354_T1002	IBC, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0354_T1013	DO, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0355_03	<i>E. coli</i>	
INV0355_06	IBC, <i>E. coli</i>	

INV0355_T1001	DO, <i>E. coli</i>	
INV0355_T1002	<i>E. coli</i>	
INV0356_T1006	<i>E. coli</i>	
INV0356_T1013	<i>E. coli</i>	
INV0356_04		IBC, <i>E. coli</i>



REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, IDEM solicits water quality-related information to support or refute the assessments described above.

Comments may be submitted in one of the following ways:

(1) By mail or common carrier to the following address:

Document #20-74 2020 Assessment of Laughery Creek Water Quality Data
Lindsay Hylton Adams, Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
2525 North Shadeland Avenue, Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46219

(2) By electronic mail to lhylton@idem.in.gov. To confirm timely delivery of your comments, please request a document receipt when you send the electronic mail. PLEASE NOTE: Electronic mail comments will NOT be considered part of the official written comment period unless they are sent to the address indicated in this notice.

(3) Hand delivered to the receptionist on duty at the reception desk, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, 2525 North Shadeland Avenue, Suite 100, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Regardless of the delivery method used, to properly identify each comment with the action it is intended to address, each comment document must clearly specify the document number of the action on which you are commenting.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE

All comments must be postmarked or time stamped not later than May 26, 2020. Hand-delivered comments must be delivered to the appropriate office by 4:45 p.m. on the above-listed deadline date.

Additional information regarding this notice may be obtained from Lindsay Hylton Adams in the Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch, Office of Water Quality, (317) 308-3378 or (800) 451-6027 (in Indiana).

DISPOSITION

After the public comment period, the determination of impairments for TMDL development will be presented to the commissioner for final approval.

Posted: 02/26/2020 by Legislative Services Agency

An [html](#) version of this document.